

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of November 13 -November 17, 2006**

1. **Gym Study:** The Community Center Gym Feasibility Study, prepared by ANCL Architects, is available on the City's web page, [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov), and for review at the Takoma Park, Md. Public Library. The study looked at site constraints and cost estimates. Cost estimates for the three options studied ranged from \$5.5 to \$8.1 million, if construction were to begin in 18 months. The Community Center Liaison Committee will meet with the consultants on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30 pm in the Community Center Azalea Room. ANCL Architects will give a presentation to the City Council at their meeting of Monday, December 4. Both meetings are open to the public. As always, the City Council meeting will be broadcast on Cable Channel 13 and is available to be watched at any time via the link on the City's web page. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

2. **An Accident on New Hampshire:** On Saturday, November 4, at about 9:00 PM, an adult male pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle as he attempted to cross the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue, about 75 feet south of the intersection with University Boulevard. The individual was transported to the MEDSTAR unit at Washington Hospital Center. On November 11, 2006, the subject died from the injuries sustained. Investigation determined that the individual was not within a crosswalk when he was struck. *(Police)*

3. **Speed Humps (Ward 1):** Willow Avenue speed humps were installed on Friday, November 17. *(Public Works)*

4. **Street Restoration (Ward 4):** Concrete work continues on Maple Avenue. The replacement of curb and gutter and sidewalk is expected to continue for two more weeks. The contractor has been asked to adjust work hours when working near the school, to reduce traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day. *(Public Works)*

5. **Leaf Collection:** Vacuum leaf collection has been underway since November 6. To date all equipment has been running well. Collection has been slowed by two days of rain. *(Public Works)*

6. **Clean-up Main Street Takoma - THIS Saturday, November 18 (City-wide):** The Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) Main Street Takoma Design Committee invites residents, businesses and other interested volunteers to help pick up trash, clean off graffiti, weed, mulch, and plant at Takoma Junction, Laurel Avenue and the Triangle Park in the District Saturday, November 18 at 11 AM. OTBA is a pre-approved Student Service Learning (SSL) organization and students participating in the event are eligible to earn required SSL credits towards graduation. For more information, please contact Main Street Takoma at (240) 253-4229 or [designcommittee@mainstreetakoma.org](mailto:designcommittee@mainstreetakoma.org). Information on how to obtain SSL credits can be viewed at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/ssl/> *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. **Maryland Downtown Development Association:** HCD staff attended the annual meeting of the Maryland Downtown Development Association on Friday, November 17. Information on a number of topics relevant to Takoma Park - retail recruitment, arts and entertainment districts and upcoming legislative issues - was presented. The organization advocates for the "health and vitality" of Maryland's main streets and down towns, sharing information among communities, and providing educational opportunities which focus on downtown development. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Safe Routes to Schools Application (City-wide):** HCD staff submitted on Wednesday,

November 15, the City's application for funding for a variety of projects designed to increase the number of children walking and biking to school and address safety concerns raised by the community. The projects include the construction of needed sidewalks, programming designed to encourage children to walk or bike to school safely, and the implementation of security and safety measures raised by parents and school administrators. A total of \$464,600 has been requested. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Landlord-Tenant Affairs (Ward 3):** Landlord Tenant Mediation Specialist, Moses A. Wilds, Jr. mediated a tenant complaint that was filed with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs regarding the landlord's failure to return a security deposit after the tenant vacated the premises. Mr. Wilds was able to negotiate a settlement amicable to both parties. The tenant received \$1,000 of her security deposit back. More than 90% of the complaints that are filed with COLTA are resolved. Tenants or landlords needing assistance with resolution of an issue that is a violation of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law or a lease may contact Mr. Wilds at 301.891.7215. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. Parkview Towers Tenants Association (Ward 4):** The Department of Housing and Community Development has received notification from the tenants residing at 7667 Maple Avenue that they have formed a tenants association. To officially register with the city, a tenant group must have at least 1/3 of the occupied rental units as members of the association. Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo, the city's community organizers who work in the Tenant Capacity Building Program, were available to the tenants to provide assistance as needed. A copy of the registration was forwarded to the landlord. Congratulations to the tenants at 7667 Maple Avenue!! If you are interested in forming a tenant's association in the building where you live, please contact Linda Walker at 301.891.7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

#### **11. Officers in Training:**

a) In-Service Training Session II was completed for the Officers on November 13th and 16th. Topics covered DUI/DWI Investigation, New Policy and Procedures dealing with Currency, Storage and Seizure, Legal Updates, Evidence and Property, and Radio procedures. The training was coordinated by Lt. Richard Cipperly, and included mostly instructors from within the Department, but also included Assistant State's Attorney Margaret Burrows, the Community prosecutor assigned to Takoma Park. *(Police)*

b) Two officers attended "Top Gun" narcotics investigation training in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Two officers attended training titled, "Crime Prevention: Focusing on Current Trends II, and two officers attended Sig Sauer Armorer's School. *(Police)*

**12. A Meeting with the School:** Cpl. Tina Smith and A/ Chief Coursey attended a security meeting Friday at the Takoma Park Middle School, coordinated by the new Principal, Renay Johnson. Also in attendance were Wayne Ferrell, the regional MCPS Security Director and Ralph Penn, the Blair Cluster Montgomery County School Resource Officer, and other members of the school and security staff. *(Police)*

**13. Visitors at the Library:** Seven third grade classes are visiting the Library Thursday mornings in November, to receive Library skills instruction from Karen MacPherson. Many are applying for Library cards as well. Classes will return in February and again in Spring. Pre-schoolers from the Morgan Day Care Center and the Takoma Park Child Development Center are visiting the Library several times a month for special book-oriented programs. *(Library)*

**14. Teen Book Buzz:** We are offering one hour of community service to middle and high

school students for each review of a new book submitted for the Library's new teen blog, "Teen Book Buzz." Students may also receive an hour of community service for reading and evaluating an older title that is being considered for weeding (removal) from the collection. *(Library)*

**15. Verizon Franchise Agreement:** Communications Manager Lonni Moffet attended the County Council MFP Committee worksession on November 13 regarding the proposed Verizon Franchise Agreement. The Committee has requested more clarifications on various issues from County Executive staff and Verizon, so an additional worksession will be held on November 27, with a vote on the Franchise Agreement scheduled for November 28. *(City TV)*

**16. Seeking New Printers:** The City has released an RFP regarding Newsletter Layout and Production Services, as longstanding vendor Sligo Computer has given notice that it will no longer be providing this type of service. The RFP is available on the City website in pdf format and proposals are due on December 18, 2006. *(City TV)*

**17. What's on City TV?:** City TV staff videotaped the latest Poetry Series on Thursday, November 16th. It will be shown on City TV next month. *(City TV)*

**18. The New NATOA:** Communications Manager Lonni Moffet was reelected President of the Baltimore-Washington chapter of NATOA (the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors). The group also voted to change its name to "National Capital Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors", or CAPATOA, to reflect the mission critical interactions of Maryland, DC and Northern Virginia jurisdictions on telecommunications infrastructure and policy. *(City TV)*

**19. Afternoon Addition Special Events:** The Afternoon Addition had a special visitor, Ellouse Schoettler on Thursday, November 16. Ms. Schoettler told stories to the children about fall and the changing of the seasons. On Friday, November 17, we welcomed Mark Jaster in Picolo's Trunk. He taught the kids about different types of mime as they had the opportunity to practice their skills by playing games like charades and story re-creation. *(Recreation)*

**20. Winter Guide:** The winter program guide is off to the printer and will be available in the December newsletter. Most classes begin around January 16, 2007. For more information about the programs the Recreation Department offers please call 301-891-7290. *(Recreation)*